



## Jessica Vega Pederson Multnomah County Chair

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March 6, 2023

Senate Committee  
Energy and Environment  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the committee:

I write to voice my support for SB 803 and urge you to vote yes on this important climate and air quality legislation.

Before starting my tenure on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, I served as the Representative for House District 47 in the Oregon Legislature from 2013 to 2017. During that time, I served as Chair of the House Committee on Energy & Environment, a role through which I was proud to champion the renewal of the Clean Fuels Program. Opponents of the program said over and over again that these standards would be a catastrophe for Oregonians, raising fuel prices and exacerbating the challenges faced by communities around the state. Despite fierce resistance, we were able to pass the bill after I and others spent hours defending it on the House and Senate floors.

But after the renewal of the Clean Fuels Program passed, we did not see the sky fall. Nor did we see any of the other negative impacts that opponents assured us would occur. Instead, Oregon has significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions, with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reporting a reduction of 5.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from 2016 to 2020, all while having a negligible impact on fuel prices. Moreover, the Clean Fuels

Program has had a positive macroeconomic impact on the state, promoting local fuels and reducing our dependence on fossil fuel imports from other states or countries.<sup>1</sup>

The Clean Fuels Program works, and SB 803 will work, too. The truth is that fossil fuels cost our communities. The State of Oregon does not produce or refine fossil fuels, so every dollar we spend on fossil fuel is a net loss to the state. Climate pollution and the severe air quality impacts of fossil diesel cost our residents their health and the breathable air they deserve. Continuing to invest in cleaner-burning, lower-carbon intensity, renewable diesel will mean more money circulating in the Oregon economy and healthier air for everyone, especially equipment operators.

The Clean Fuels Program has been shown to work. I urge you to support this opportunity to build the clean energy economy of the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Vega Pederson  
Multnomah County Chair

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<sup>1</sup> State of Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality, *Oregon Clean Fuels Program: Program Review*. February 1, 2022.